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Mr. H. C. Carey read an obituary notice of the late Stephen Colwell, pursuant to notice.

The death of John Edwards Holbrook, M. D., formerly Prof. Anat. Med. Coll, South Carolina, which took place at Norfolk, Mass., Sept. 7, 1871, was announced by the Secretary.

The death of Ed. W. Brayley, F. R. S., Feb. 1, 1870, was announced by the Secretary.

A memoir for the Transactions: On the Tours of the Chess Knight, by M. Serge de Stchoulepnikoff, was received, with a letter from the author, dated Circleville, O., Nov. 3, 1871, and, on motion, referred to the following Committee; Prof. George Allen, Mr. Pliny E. Chase and General Tilghman.

A Note on the Footmark in Hieroglyphic Script, by M. F. Chabas, of the Institute of France, was read by the Secretary.

*Note of F. Chabas, of the Institute of France, on the Foot-mark in the Hieroglyphic Script.*

I find in the Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society (Vol. XI., p. 312) the following statement:

"Mr. Lesley referred also to the fact that the ancient Egyptian B was graphically represented by the leg, A by the arm, T by the hand, and that what is called the comb may have been meant for the foot-mark."

I am not acquainted with any hieroglyphic character bearing in its graphical form a nearer resemblance to a comb than [Mr. Chabas here gives the M as in the first King's name, Mena,] the larger drawings of which show manifestly to be a chess or draughts-board with its men.

But the feet occur in the hieroglyphic script, not with a phonetic but with a symbolic worth. They are a mark of the actual presence of the delineator. When a pious Egyptian repaired to some place of worship, in a distant country, he would sometimes, as a token of his zeal, incise a figure of his two feet on some stone in the neighborhood. Similar sculptures were observable on the terrace of the temple of Khons at Karnak, and have been published by M. Prisse d'Avenues; the name, pedigree and titles of the pilgrim are generally written close to his sculptured feet, which are represented either naked or shod; in one case they are replaced by the soles or feet-marks.

This practice was probably very old, but either from the scarcity of monuments or the neglect of observers, it can not be traced up in the first empire. One of the instances published by M. Prisse refers to the reign of Apries.

F. CHABAS.

Chalon sur Saône, Oct. 21, 1871.

A. P. S.—VOL. XII—Y.